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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH : Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT : Requested Comment on the Situation in
Guinea
REFERENCE : [REDACTED] 25X1A2G

1. The political crisis in Guinea described in the reference report is the first significant local challenge to the Sekou Touré government since its formation in October 1958. Several top government officials, disturbed by the regime's extremism, have tried to organize a political opposition. Touré is taking vigorous measures to suppress it and should be able to ride out the storm. After surmounting this crisis, however, Guinea will probably face intensified economic distress arising from the government's currency and economic policies.

2. The current opposition to the government is apparently due in large part to tribal alignments. The Foulah tribesmen of the hinterland have traditionally represented the dominance of the Malinke and Soussou people who control the present government. Some of the moderate elements in the government under the leadership of Minister of Justice Ibrahima Barry have tried to capitalize on the tribal antipathies by launching a new political party to

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oppose Touré authoritarian Democratic party of Guinea and to favor closer ties with France. The government's allegation of French connivance has not been proved, but it is likely that private French business interests in Guinea who feel threatened by the state's increasingly hostile role may be involved.

3. The mob demonstrations reportedly scheduled for 25 April are not known to have occurred although there have been several minor clashes and tension remains high. About 150 persons have been arrested, including several prominent government officials. Among these are apparently Minister of Justice Ibrahima Barry and Inspector General of Labor Diallo Ibrahima. In addition, Minister of Civil Service Camara Bengaly, and Minister of Health Roger Najib are reportedly slated for arrest.

4. The purging of these ministers would adversely affect Western interests. Not only are they generally the most friendly to the West, but they are also among the most competent. If they are removed, Guinea, which is deficient in administrative personnel, may become even more dependent on the Sino-Soviet bloc for technical and administrative assistance.

5. The specific situation referred to in the reference report was treated in the Current Intelligence Bulletin on 23 April, and is also covered in an article scheduled to appear in the Current Intelligence Weekly on 28 April.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

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